

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 28-30, and for finding claims 10-11, 21 and 25-27 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above referenced patent application in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections. Claims 1, 11, 12, 22 and 26 have been amended. Claims 8-10, 19-21 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. No claims have been added. Thus, claims 1-4, 7, 11-15, 18, 22-24 and 26-30 are pending.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection over *Freimuth* and *Star*

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7-9, 12-15, 18-20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious in light of Freimuth et al., USPN 2004/0199808 (hereinafter “*Freimuth*”) in view of Star et al, USPN 2005/0122986 (hereinafter “*Star*”). Claims 8, 9, 19 and 20 have been canceled herein, rendering moot the above rejection as applied thereto. For at least the following reasons, Applicants traverse the above rejection as applied to pending claims 1-4, 7, 12-15, 18 and 22-24.

The *Allowable Subject Matter* section of the Office Action states that claims 10, 21 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amend independent claims 1, 12 and 22 herein to recite the combination of limitations recited in canceled claims 10, 21 and 25, respectively. Therefore, each of current independent claims 1, 12 and 22 recites a combination of limitations which the Office Action admits is allowable in view of *Freimuth* and *Star*.

Accordingly, each of current independent claims 1, 12 and 22 is patentable over *Freimuth* and *Star*, as are any claims depending therefrom. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants request that the above 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 7, 12-15, 18 and 22-24 based on *Freimuth* and *Star* be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The *Allowable Subject Matter* section of the Office Action states that claims 28-30 are allowed, and that claims 10-11, 21 and 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the independent claim and any intervening claim. Claims 28-30 are not amended herein, and remain in their allowed form. Claims 10, 21 and 25 are canceled herein in favor of amended independent claims 1, 12 and 22, from which claims 11, 26 and 27 variously depend.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the objections and rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 1-4, 7, 11-15, 18, 22-24 and 26-30 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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